



CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Police Aggressive Driving Team

► AT-A-GLANCE

► Project Characteristics

Enforcement
Public Awareness

► Program Areas

Police Traffic Services
Public Awareness and
Education

► Targeted Populations

Motoring Public

► Type of Jurisdiction

State

► Jurisdiction Size

3.5 million

► Funding

402 Funds: \$248,638
Dept. of Public Safety
Funds: \$1,257,969

► Contact

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Problem Identification

Traffic has worsened on Connecticut roadways. Since 1990, the number of motor vehicles rose 10 percent; the number of licensed drivers rose 12 percent; and total Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) increased 40 percent, while surface road miles increased by only 1.1 percent. As a result, drivers have become more aggressive. Tailgating, speeding, and cutting off other drivers are examples of common aggressive driving behavior.

The morning and evening rush hours are peak times for aggressive driving behaviors, often resulting in crashes. From 6 AM to 9 AM and from 3 PM to 7 PM, 43.3 percent of all crashes occur. According to Department of Transportation (DOT) statistics, following too closely accounts for 33.2 percent of crashes, failing to grant the right of way accounts for 18.89 percent, and driving too fast for conditions accounts for 10.73 percent of the crashes on Connecticut roadways. These statistics were unacceptable.

Goals and Objectives

The *Connecticut Police Aggressive Driving Team's* goal is to establish and enforce a zero tolerance policy for irresponsible driving in an effort to make road travel safe in Connecticut.

The primary objectives of this effort are to:

- Use increased enforcement actions and awareness of such actions to deter drivers from operating a vehicle irresponsibly; and
- Decrease the incidence of problems such as speeding, aggressive driving behavior, and failure to use safety belts.

Strategies and Activities

To address aggressive driving, the *Connecticut Police Aggressive Driving Team* implemented the following strategies and related activities:

- Organized aggressive driving countermeasure teams in every state police district.
- Used nontraditional police vehicles to enable officers to concentrate on areas where it is difficult to conduct enforcement activities while driving standard police vehicles. Each team includes three non-traditional cars and other unmarked Crown Victoria police vehicles.
- Used unmarked vehicles such as Cameros, Intrepids and Impalas, allowing uniformed enforcement teams to observe traffic without



drawing attention to themselves and issue summonses when necessary.

- Established an added police presence during peak traffic hours with the greatest aggressive driving incidences.
- Increased officers' work hours when specializing in aggressive driver enforcement.
- Made presentations to media about the program and allowed them to film the new vehicles used in the enforcement effort.
- Conducted several ride along programs that enabled the media to ride with officers and witness examples of aggressive driving that officers see every day.
- Displayed the Cameros used in the enforcement effort at various enforcement and media events.

Results

The *Connecticut Police Aggressive Driving Team's* success is reflected in the following results achieved during the project's first four months:

- Issued 6,532 summonses, 4,823 citations for speeding, 623 citations for following too closely, 212 citations for unsafe lane change, and 164 summonses for reckless driving (speeds over 85mph)
- Allowed troopers who specialize in aggressive driving enforcement to work beyond normal shifts
- Prompted the agency to purchase non-traditional vehicles for each troop
- Provided the department with another weapon to successfully combat aggressive driving
- Received positive media attention, particularly the use of Cameros

Aggressive driving enforcement activity is ongoing. Connecticut State Police continue to respond to reports of aggressive driving by dispatching non-traditional units.